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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY China

DATE: 25X1X

SUBJECT Political Information: Condition of Roman Catholic Missions in Communist Areas of North China

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SUPPLEMENT

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"LIBRARY COPY"1. Conditions at end of War

All of the 734 mission posts of the 49 dioceses (listed in paragraph 2) were in operation on V-J Day. During the war, foreign missions in China were allowed to operate almost without restriction as long as the priests were not enemy nationals of the Japanese. In missions occupied by nationals of countries at war with Japan, these persons were sent off to concentration camps maintained for civilians. A Chinese priest was put in charge of the mission. During the occupation, there was very little damage to mission property. After the end of the war, Chinese Communists in various areas changed their attitude from an openly-declared policy of cooperation and religious freedom towards the missions to an aggressive policy of eradication.

2. Present Condition of Roman Catholic Mission Posts in Chinese Communist Held Areas

The letter following the mission post in the list below indicates the status of the mission according to the following categories:

- A. Missions operating normally without restriction. This means that the mission post itself is functioning fully, schools are operating, the clergy are unmolested, and mass is celebrated. However, the missionaries from these unrestricted posts are unable to visit the villages of the district to carry on their mission work.
- B. Missions operating partially. The operation of schools is not allowed. Mass can be performed, and the missionaries and mission personnel can remain at the mission. However, the missionaries have to grant the Communists the use of the mission grounds for Communist meetings.
- C. Missions totally restricted. The priest is allowed only a small room to himself where he is confined during the day. He may use the church to celebrate Mass in the early morning hours only. All other mission buildings are taken over for use by the Communists.
- D. Missions totally closed down. No missionaries remain. A number of the Chinese priests who were formerly in these missions have gone into hiding near their former posts. Some of these priests have joined the staffs of UNRRA and CNERA.

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Extracted by F.I.R.